Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1763 - May 27 2011

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1763 with a release date of Friday, May 27, 2011 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio faces another challenge from Mother Nature as more tornadoes hit in the south; the FCC Chairman makes a surprise visit to Hamvention 2011, a ham is fined $4000 for out of band operation, and four New York radio amateurs meet with the sponsor of H-R 607 and he says he will try to eliminate 420 to 440 MHz from it. Find out the details are on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1763 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO RESPONDS TO JOPLIN TORNADO

Ham radio operators are a part of severe weather spotting as well as being involved in relief efforts as tornadoes continue to ravage the South. We have the latest in this report:

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Actually, four days after the severe weather struck, very little is known about the role being played by radio amateurs in the South, especially in and around Joplin, Missouri. That's because they are far too busy saving lives and reporting damage to stop to make reports to the press.

We do know come from published news reports that quote Ron Kittleman, K0ADI. He says that hams have been stationed at the Springfield Missouri office of the National Weather Service. Also, that amateurs from ARES have been providing communication between hospitals and assessment teams following the tornado that hit Joplin at approximately 6 pm local time on Sunday, May 22nd.

According to Kittleman, the storm knocked out cell phone and landline communications across the area. Radio operators from ARES started relaying medical information between the Freeman Hospital and the St John's and Cox Health medical facilities in Springfield shortly after the storm hit.

Another report says that a Kansas and Western Missouri SATERN Teams from the Salvation Army has been activated for the Joplin tornado response. As we go to air, SATERN team members are reportedly assisting with communications in the affected area. Also, a Salvation Army emergency disaster services team based out Pittsburg, Kansas has been deployed to Joplin. Its job is to help carry out mass feeding for residents and first responders through a mobile feeding kitchen capable of serving thousands of meals a day.

As we go to air, the situation across the storm ravaged region remains

a fluid one with events changing by the minute. We should know more in the coming days.

>From the Newsroom in Los Angeles, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reporting for the Amateur Radio network

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More on this ham radio emergency response to this springs wicked weather in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm) from published news reports)

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HAMVENTION 2011: IT WAS THE SHOW TO BE AT

Dayton Hamvention 2011 is in the books and for some, the highlights included an "out of this world" experience in the visit of a NASA astronaut and a surprise guest appearance by one of the government's top communications regulators. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V has the report.

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"My call sign here on Earth is KF5BOC. But I've never used it. I call that my gravity call sign. But, my real call sign is NA1SS from the space station and I sort of got this emotional attachment to that now."

And, that's what NASA Astronaut Doug Wheelock had to say during Saturday's Youth Forum at the Dayton Hamvention, one of several events he attended during the weekend celebration of Global Friendship, the theme of this year's gathering.

Wheelock was invited to Hamvention to be part of the American Radio Relay League's Expo.

But he spent a lot of time mingling and circulating throughout various areas of the Hamvention grounds and freely signed autographs and chatted with folks and packed a Saturday afternoon forum where he talked about life aboard the International Space Station.

Wheelock says his time aboard the space station was anything but routine.

It was last July 31, only hours after a pre-arranged contact with K2BSA at the Boy Scouts of America Jamboree in Virginia that things got challenging.

"I had just shut down the tread mill and about 10 minutes later the alarms went off," Wheelock recalls. "I looked and I kept silencing the alarms, silencing the alarm. I picked up the mic and said 'Houston are you there?'

"And, they weren't answering and so then I looked and all my crewmates were there and they said: 'What did you do?' I said: 'I just turned off the tread mill, I promise you.'

"Anyway, we had a pump module that failed, we ended up having to go outside and do three space walks."

And, Wheelock says, it was great to know there were people -other than his crewmates and NASA engineers - who he could talk to and decompress as they battled to fix the problem...

"As we came back in from those spacewalks. I got on the ham radio and we talked about it and everything," Wheelock says. "Using that radio and having you guys as an emergency contact for us around the globe was a warm, warm feeling for me as a commander aboard that space station."

And, Wheelock says, he looked at ham radio aboard the ISS as a critical back-up, should all else fail...

"I thought, you know, I have these emergency contacts on every continent on that planet down there," Wheelock recalls. "And, I thought if my communication goes out with Mission Control, I am not hesitating one bit to call some of my friends and say: 'Hey, Chris, can you give Mission Control a jingle and tell 'em that we're okay.' "

And, Wheelock says, becoming a ham has been a life-changing experience....

"The friends that I made in the amateur radio business and community, I now feel like a just an entrenched member of this community and it really truly has changed my life for the better," Wheelock says.

Finally, Wheelock recalls "crossing the line." He thought it was harmless when he did it. But his NASA ham radio instructor informed him after he did it that...well, let's have him tell the story of wishing a frequent friend over Europe by the name of Fabiano a happy birthday...

"I felt like I was kind of slapped on the wrist by NASA and then I thought, and then I felt flattered that my singing of Happy Birthday was actually considered music," he says.

Wheelock truly was a hit, stopping to take pictures with nearly everyone who asked and signing program books and NASA photos.

He'll also be appearing in an upcoming video the ARRL is producing.

Now, what else happened at Dayton?

Well, imagine you're Hamvention chairman Michael Kalter W8CI, and you get word Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski is "in the house" and wants an audience.

No fooling!

Genachowski had a flight diverted to Dayton Friday night because of the storms in the Midwest and was told it might be a problem finding a hotel room because of the Hamvention.

Well, Genachowski found a room and decided to check out ham radio for

himself and this big gathering of hams from around the world.

As Kalter and others from the Dayton Hamvention committee tell it, Genachowski spent about two hours at the gathering. He circulated among many, including those in the main arena where he chatted with folks about the advanced technology in use in amateur radio today.

The Dayton Hamvention committee estimated attendance of at least 20-thousand and say they got positive feedback from both the inside vendors and those in the flea market.

One little glitch made this year's Hamvention a bit memorable.

Early in the afternoon, Hara Arena personnel began closing off all the restrooms with yellow caution tape and directing people to porta-potties outside.

Most didn't learn until later that major sewer line broke, sending its contents into an area of the flea market.

Well, the affected flea market spots were moved, the leak was temporarily fixed, and people came back Sunday for the final day of events.

I'll be back next week with more on Hamvention 2011, including a special interview with a YL who has been a big part of activities in Dayton for 24 years. Next year, she's looking forward to 25 and she'll clue us in on what she has in store.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, from Dayton, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V.

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More on Hamvention 2011 next week. (ARNewsline(tm). NT3V)

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RADIO POLITICS: COUNCIL OF EUROPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS RF FREE ZONES

The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment released a report titled The Potential Dangers of Electromagnetic Fields and Their Effect on the Environment. The paper, made public on May 6th carries recommendations that, if adopted, could have major implications for wireless carriers and, to a lesser extent, broadcasters and any RF emitter in the European Union.

In regard to standards or threshold values for emissions of electromagnetic fields of all types and frequencies, the Assembly that prepared the report recommends that the "as low as reasonably achievable" principle be applied. This, covering both the so-called thermal effects as well as the biological effects of electromagnetic emissions or radiation.

The report also is among the first to give credibility to a phenomena that most scientists and researchers have long been skeptical of.

Paragraph 8.1.4 of the report recommends member states of the Council of Europe pay particular attention to the needs of what it calls electro-sensitive persons. These are people who claim that they suffer from a syndrome of intolerance to electromagnetic fields. The report suggests the introduction of special measures to protect these people. This includes the creation of wave-free areas not covered by a wireless network. What effect acceptance and implementation of the recommendations would have on ham radio operations in Europe remain to be determined. (RW)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N7SK0 repeater serving Kingmnan Arizona.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO POLITICS: NY HAM DELEGATION CLAIMS 420 TO 450 MHZ TO BE REMOVED FROM HR-607

A delegation of Amateur Radio operators from the Long Island and metro New York City area say that they met the morning of May 19th with Congressman Peter T. King of New York. King is the mastermind behind HR 607, which in its present form would sell off part of the 70 centimeter band to help defray the cost of a proposed 700 MHz interoperable first response emergency communications network.

According to the groups spokesman, Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, Congressman King said that he fully understands and appreciates the importance of Amateur Radio and the service it provides to the community. Also, that he would see to the modification of the bill so that the 420 to 440 MHz band would be excluded from the spectrum to be auctioned.

According to Lisenco, the Congressman went on to explain that it was never his intention to remove the 70 centimeter band from Amateur use. He also requested that the four ham delegation inform the Amateur Radio community that 70 centimeters is not in jeopardy.

The delegation says that it operated independently of the ARRL's organized effort to derail the portion of the 70 centimeter band that would have put 420 to 440 MHz in jeopardy. In addition to Lisenco the group included Peter Portanova, WB2OQQ, George Tranos, N2GA,, and Jim Mezey, W2KFV.

As we go to air, its now it's a waiting game to see if Congressman King can keep his promise to get 420 to 440 MHz removed from the measure. As has been pointed out to Newsline by several who understand the U-S legislative system, Representative King lost all control over the content of HR-607 as soon as he submitted it for congressional law making consideration. Because of this, all he can do is recommended

that it be changed but he cannot force this to happen.

In reality, HR-607 is now under the control of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. So until both he and the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology act, the threat to the 420 to 440 MHz spectrum remains real, and ham radio operators nationwide have to keep their eyes and ears open on this one. (N2YBB)

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RADIO POLITICS: SENATE VERSION OF HR 607 PROTECTS HAM RADIO

In a related story, the ARRL reports that on Thursday, May 19, Senators Joe Lieberman and John McCain introduced Senate measure S 1040 which is similar to HR 607. The big difference is that unlike HR 607, the Senate version does not call for auctioning any portions of Amateur Radio spectrum. (ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: MISSION VIEJO CA USES RACES IN PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

In an effort to keep itself safe and prepared for emergencies, Mission Viejo, California city staff and members of the local ham radio community recently participated in the Golden Guardian 2011 emergency response exercise.

Golden Guardian 2011 was an emergency preparedness exercise sponsored by the California Office of Homeland Security. As part of the detailed training program, the city called into action the Mission Viejo Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services or RACES team. Like others of its kind, Mission Viejo RACES is a volunteer group of amateur radio operators that deploy as the city's backup emergency communications system in the event that other methods of communication fail.

The Mission Viejo's exercise was part of a county-wide effort to test emergency communications systems in the City's Emergency Operations Center using a winter storm response scenario. Located at Mission Viejo City Hall, the EOC is a secure facility where city department heads are able to work in the event of a large disaster. Mission Viejo's RACES is headed up by Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ. (K6HIV)

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ENFORCEMENT: HAM FINED $4000 FOR OUT OF BAND OPERATION

The FCC has issued a Forfeiture Order in the mount of $4000 to Jose Torres, N3TX, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This for what the regulatory agency says was Torres willfully and repeatedly operating his amateur station on an unauthorized frequency in violation of Section 1.903 (a) of the Commission's Rules.

Back in 2009 the FCC issued an Notice of Apparent Liability to monetary forfeiture to Torres after receiving a complaint of interference in 2008. Agents in the Enforcement Bureau's Philadelphia Office used

mobile direction finding equipment in April and June of that year to determine the source of interference. Both times, they found that the source was coming from Torres' residence and that the interference consisted of unauthorized radio transmissions on 26.71 MHz.

Torres met with agents in the FCC's Philadelphia Office in February 2009 to respond to the findings in the Notice of Apparent Liability. During the meeting, Torres claimed that he was not at home during the alleged unauthorized operations in April and June of 2008. He also submitted cell phone records in support of this claim. Torres also presented the FCC with his most recent three years of federal tax returns to support his request for a reduction based on an inability to pay the $4000 forfeiture.

In its May 16th announcement affirming the Forfeiture Order, the FCC stated that it found no merit to Torres' claim that he was not at home when the unauthorized transmissions took place. It noted that the cellular phone records prove nothing more than the fact that he was using his cell phone and not the wire-line telephone located in his home. And after reviewing Torres tax records the FCC declined to reduce the amount of the forfeiture, based on Torres claim that was unable to pay it. The FCC says that after having reviewed the documentation Torres provided, it concludes that a reduction of the forfeiture is not warranted.

Torres was given the customary 30 days to pay the monetary forfeiture or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: VA3WXM ELECTED RAC ONTARIO SOUTH DIRECTOR

Some names in the news. First up is Jeffrey Stewart, VA3WXM who was recently elected as the Radio Amateurs of Canada Director for Ontario South for the remainder of a two year term which ends December 31, 2011. Stewart emerged with the majority vote over Nelson Jenking, VA3NDJ in a mail ballot closing May 13th for the Ontario South Director's position. Stewart has been a certified amateur operator since March 1999 and involved in many aspects of the hobby including a recent term as President of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club. (RAC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: CQ ANNOUNCES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

And CQ magazine has announced its 2011 Hall of Fame inductees, welcoming 12 new members into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

Topping this years list alphabetically is TV and Film producer Dave Bell, W6AQ, who was chosen for this honor based on his deep involvement in producing multiple amateur radio promotional videos over the past several decades.

Also from Southern California is Nate Brightman, K6OSC. He is credited with being the "spark" behind W6RO, the ham station aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California.

Rounding out the California contingent is Cardinal Roger Mahony, W6QYI, the Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles. He was recognized for his leadership as an advocate for immigration reform.

Others recognized include Ron Moorefield, W8ILC of Kettering, Ohio. Since its inception, Moorefield has been one of the guiding lights of the Dayton Hamvention. He was also recognized for his work as a coordinator of the cross-country 1984 Olympic Torch Relay.

There was also one each member inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame and the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. The 2011 inductee to the CQ DX Hall of Fame is Michael J. McGirr, K9AJ. McGirr has been a leading DXpeditioner who has operated literally from the ends of the Earth over nearly 30 years. The 2011 inductee to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame is John Sluymer, VE3EJ, who has been an active contester and DXer since 1973. He is a founding member and current president of Contest Club Ontario.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals, whether licensed hams or not, who have made significant contributions to amateur radio; and those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to amateur radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet. The CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame honor those amateurs who not only excel in personal performance in these major areas of amateur radio but who also "give back" to the hobby in outstanding ways. Formal inductions to the CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame took place at last weeks Dayton Hamvention. A complete list of this years inductees is on-line at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. (CQ)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ISS EXPEDITION 27 CREW RETURNS TO EARTH

International Space Station Expedition 27 Commander Dmitry Kondratyev along with Flight Engineers Cady Coleman, KC5ZTH and Paolo Nespoli, IZ0JPA safely landed their Soyuz spacecraft in Kazakhstan on Monday, June 23rd wrapping up a five-month stay aboard the orbital outpost.

Before making its descent to Earth, the Soyuz backed 600 feet away from the ISS after which Nespoli took the first still images and video of a space shuttle docked to the station. The orbiting laboratory had to rotate 130 degrees to provide an ideal view for the historic imagery.

Russian recovery teams were on hand to help the crew exit the Soyuz and

adjust to gravity. Kondratyev was to return to the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, outside of Moscow, while Coleman and Nespoli will fly directly to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. (Southgate)

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HAM RADIO NEAR SPACE: EOSS TO FLY BALLOON NUMBER 164

Edge of Space Sciences will be flying its 164th stratospheric balloon flight on Saturday May 28th at 7:10 Mountain Standard Time out of Windsor, Colorado. This flight will be in support of Colorado University Boulder's Space Grant Consortium. The tentative payload frequencies are 147.555 MHz with a CW I-D of AE0SS for the beacon and 144.340 MHz for APRS tracking using the call AE0SS-11. For the latest information please check the Edge of Space Sciences website at www.eoss.org. (KC0UUO)

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RADIO FROM SPACE: TWIN VOYAGERS SET TO ENTER INTERSTELLAR SPACE

More than 30 years after they left Earth, NASA's twin Voyager probes are now at the edge of the solar system and set to enter Interstellar space. And with each passing day they are radioing back information that to scientists is both unsettling and thrilling. Jeff Clark, K8JAC, reports:

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Voyager 2 launched on August 20, 1977, from Cape Canaveral, Florida aboard a Titan-Centaur rocket. On September 5, Voyager 1 launched, also from Cape Canaveral aboard another Titan-Centaur. He initial chore for each Voyager was to take advantage of a rare alignment of outer planets for an unprecedented grand tour. Voyager 1 visited Jupiter and Saturn, while Voyager 2 flew past Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

The Voyager spacecraft became the third and fourth human spacecraft to fly beyond all the planets in our solar system. Pioneers 10 and 11 preceded Voyager in outstripping the gravitational attraction of the Sun but on February 17, 1998, Voyager 1 passed Pioneer 10 to become the most distant human-made object in space.

No one knows exactly how many more miles the Voyagers must travel before they pop into interstellar space. Most researchers believe, however, that the end is near. The two Voyagers are currently within the Heliosheath at the end of the galaxy. It is believed to be 3 to 4 billion miles in thickness. According to one NASA researcher, that means they could be out within five years or so.

I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC

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For more information about the Voyager spacecraft, visit

voyager.jpl.nasa.gov and www.nasa.gov/voyager (NASA)

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DX

In DX, HA0HW will be active again stroke SV8 from Thassos Island through June 5th. He will operate on the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL via his home callsign preferably through the bureau.

TJ3AY has been issued special callsign TJ3IC to be used through months end to commemorate the 51st anniversary of the independence of Cameroon. QSL via F5LGE.

Three Czech Republic operators will be on the Island of Crete until months end signing portable SV9. They also plan a few side trips to offshore islands, which will count as IOTA EU-187. QSL this one as directed on the air.

Lastly, The Pacific-DXer's Web page is reporting that plans are progressing for the upcoming C21AA DXpedition to take place between November 13th and December 5th. Operations will be led by VK4FW, with liaison support by VK4AN. They expect to have at least 3 stations active on all bands 160 through 6 meters using CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK31. Also, a dedicated station will be set up on 6 meters running in the beacon mode. QSL Managers are the Pacific DXers, or by the Bureau via VK4FW.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: REGISTRATION OPEN FOR USA NATIONAL ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

And finally this week, registration is now open for the biggest event of the year for on-foot hidden transmitter hunters. September 16 through 18 are the dates for USA's national championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding, or ARDF. Newsline's Joe Moell K0OV,has the details:

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Who are the best transmitter hunters in the country? That's what we'll find out when the Eleventh USA ARDF Championships get under way near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Members of Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club and New Mexico Orienteers promise two challenging radio-orienteering courses. One will be on two meters, and the other on 80 meters. This is a test of individuals, and it's all on foot. You'll have five transmitters to find each day, negotiating your way through the forest with your map, compass and direction-finding gear. If you can walk or jog a 5 km racecourse, you have the stamina to complete an ARDF event. If you're a senior citizen, don't worry about being trounced by teenagers, because there are a total of ten age categories, six for men and boys, four for women and girls.

This year, the USA Championships are an international event, combined with the International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 ARDF Championships.

If past events are any indication, there will be plenty of international experts in the sport on hand, so you'll have a chance to learn foxtailing tips and techniques from the very best. Positions on ARDF Team USA to next year's World Championships in Serbia are open, so perhaps you can earn a spot for yourself. We're looking for good candidates in all age/gender categories, so encourage your kids and grandkids to give it a try.

If you're new to the sport, arrive two days early for a pre-event training camp, where experts will teach you what you need to know to find those transmitters in the woods.

It may seem like September is a long way away, but the organizers need an accurate head count very soon so they can plan for the buses to take the competitors to the competition sites. So if you're thinking about participating, get the registration form from the Web and send it in right away, or contact the organizers by e-mail to let them know you want to come. There's more information about the event and links to the organizers at www.homingin.com. That's one word "homingin" ---homingin.com. At that site you'll also find lots more about transmitter hunting, including equipment ideas and techniques. View photos of past USA Championships to get a good idea what to expect.

>From southern California, where there's some kind of transmitter hunt almost every weekend, this is Joe Moell, K0OV, for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Again that website Joe mentioned is www.homingin.com. (K0OV, ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is Newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

And a reminder that the nominating period for the year 2011 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Created by Newsline back in 1986, this award is offered to recognize one young United States or Canadian radio amateur age 18 or younger for his or her contributions to society through Amateur Radio.

As in years past, the 2011 recipient will receive an expense paid trip to the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville Alabama courtesy of Vertex-Standard Corporation which produces Yaesu brand amateur radio gear. Vertex-Standard will also present this years winner with a special ham radio related gift. CQ Magazine will again treat the

recipient to a week at Spacecamp-Huntsville. We at Amateur Radio Newsline will present the winner with a plaque honoring his or her achievements.

All nominations and materials required by the official rules must be received by ARNewsline before June 30, 2011. A downloadable nominating form is at our website at www.arnewsline.org. A nominating form can also be obtained by sending a request along with a self addressed stamped envelope to the Young Ham of the Year Award in care of Amateur Radio Newsline, Inc. 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California 91350.

Again, the cutoff date for these years Young Ham of the Year Award nominations is June 30th. We ask you to do your part by nominating a young ham who has done something special related to ham radio. The nomination form is at www.arnewsline.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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